

EXCERPTS FROM - The WORLD, Sunday, Aug. 8, 1926
(Summary of Schneider-Bahmer movements)

Pearl said when she got home she found her father sitting there, and after they had walked up to the ice cream store Nick Bahmer, Hungarian saloon keeper, who was "quite drunk," said, "Let's take a walk to sober me up."

Pearl and her father, going north in George street, pass the lounging schneider and his friends, who jump to their feet and follow. Pearl confessed she had long been intimate with Schneider.

"As we go further up," Pearl told the prosecutor, "I turned again and saw Raymond Schneider take off his coat and give it to Clifford Hayes, who put it on over his sweater. I then saw Raymond roll up his sleeves. * * * We sat on the grass. Clifford Hayes and one of the fellows came up and they laid on their stomachs about ten feet from where I and my father was sitting. My father asked them what they wanted, and they replied, 'We are looking for a place to sleep,' and my father said, 'Well, move out of here.' They got up and went on the other side of the street. I and my father then got up and walked further up the street. * * * My father saw them following us, and he said to me, 'If I had a gun I would show you how to get rid of them.'"

"It was after 10 P.M. then. We sat down on the grass (just outside the entrance to Buccleugh Park) and Raymond Schneider and Clifford Hayes circled around us, and then all four met together. They must have missed us, as we saw nothing of them after that. I heard the town clock strike 11 P.M. * * * We arrived home at midnight."

Hayes and Schneider had missed Pearl and Nick Bahmer in the dark. If this was about 10 P.M., as Pearl believed then, Hall and Mrs. Mills had already passed down Easton Avenue, on the far side of the park, and gone up De Russey's Lane. Or if they were together, strolling, they may still have been in Buccleugh Park.

The other boy, or boys, went home, leaving Schneider and Hayes beating about the park, looking for Pearl. The girl said next day Schneider told her he did not recognize "the man" was her father and the reason he followed was:

"If anything happened, we were going to start something."

"You can't fight," said Pearl scornfully, and he replied:

"Well, I got friends. And Clifford Hayes had a gun anyway."

Pearl said he told her:

"When we got to the park following you we missed you. We went through the park and over to Easton Avenue, to the lane, where we saw a man and woman we thought was you and your father."

Hayes testified it was 2.15 when he got home. Pearl was told by schneider that he had continued to look for her until 3 A.M., when he went home.

While these prowlers were moving about the park like sinister shadows, Norman R. Tingle was sitting on the porch of his home, over in Easton Avenue (or turnpike, as it is called outside town). The Tingles lived in the first house past the Parker house, on the right, about 125 yards from De Russey's Lane.

Q. Tell us what happened that night of unusual importance that attracted your attention. A. Well, we went out on the porch at about 9.45, and we were sitting there talking, and my wife saw a star fall and she remarked that whenever a star fell some one was going to die. I said, "Nettie, I have seen thousands of stars fall."

Then we heard some shots, about three I would say, and there might have been four. My wife said, "Listen to the shots, maybe some one is getting killed."

Q. About what time was that? A. I do not remember exactly. But I think it was between 10:15 and 10:45, as we went to bed about 11.15.

Re-examination of the autopsies, copies of which are possessed by The World, indicate that four shots were fired, one striking Mr. Hall, three striking Mrs. Mills. The reports the Tingles heard just after the falling star are circumstantially the fatal explosions.

Did the night have eyes as well as ears? So far this review has followed The World's carbon copies of the pre-Grand Jury testimony. The name of one other witness must be injected. Mrs. Jane Gibson, long after the hue and cry, went before the Grand Jury and insisted she had recognized Mrs. Hall at the murder scene just off De Russey's Lane. This pig farmer lived in the Middlebush Road, beyond the far end of the lane, and said she had crept up the lane on her Jenny mule while reconnoitring for corn and chicken thieves. Mrs. Nellie Russell challenged the statement, saying the pig woman had been visiting her at the murder hour, and the Grand Jury gave Mrs. Gibson no credence. Officially, the night had no eyes.

If the murders occurred at 10:45 P.M., the next movers in the night, barring the prowling Schneider, were from the Hall and Mills homes.

Mrs. Hall said she got up at 2.30 A.M., alarmed, woke Willie, and the two dressed and walked to St. John's Church, little more than two blocks away. It was dark and locked. She said she remembered the Mills telephone call and walked round past the Mills house, but, seeing no lights, went home again.

Willie confirmed the movement, but insisted they had gone out at 1.30 A.M., and that he remembered the hour because his sister had told him.

Mills said he awoke at 2.50 A.M., looked at the clock, dressed and went to the church, thinking something must have happened to his wife. He was back by 2.30 A.M. So that whether Mrs. Hall and Willie went out at 1.30 or 2.30, they just missed the anxious sexton.

Another witness is drawn in, William Phillips, night watchman at the Women's College, across from the Hall home, who between 2.30 and 3 A.M. heard a dog bark, and walked around in Redmond Street to investigate.

"As I did so I saw a woman walking past and enter the Hall home."

Q. What door did the woman go in? A. I saw her go through the driveway on Redmond Street. I noticed that the lights in the Hall home had been on all night, which was rather unusual.

Q. Did you recognize the woman as Mrs. Hall? A. I do not know. In the house next door a family named Bennett live, and while I was standing there, after the woman passed, Mr. Bennett came out in his underclothes and he said that his dog had jumped through a screen window and said he must have heard me. I said, you did not hear me, I saw a woman just pass and go into the Hall home. Benneet said, "What, a woman this time of the morning!"

The hour of Phillips's vision agrees with the time when Mrs. Hall said she was out, only she stated she was with Willie, and

Phillips saw no man.

Mrs. Hall said she rose at 6 A.M. after a sleepless night and presently rang up the police and guardedly asked "if any casualties had been reported." Before breakfast she drove out with the car with "just a frantic feeling I could see somebody" and finally saw Mills, who told her his wife had been out all night, the first time she had ever done such a thing. She did not officially notify the police until that evening, Friday.

No word came of the missing rector and choir singer. Mills insisted he had no suspicion of elopement. He just thought it was "funny," and his eyes of washed-out blue blinked with simplicity as he said it. Friday went into Saturday. Still no word.

Saturday morning Pearl Bahmer, the saloonkeeper's daughter, comes into the picture again. At 8.45 A.M. she met Schneider under the tracks, the same place she had met him Thursday evening.

Schneider did not lead her into the park. Instead he went straight out Easton Avenue to De Russey's lane, turning at the second wheel rut in the left. Pearl testified:

"As we went in there I asked him, 'Where are you going?'

"He said, 'We will go in here and sit down.'

"He seemed to act as if he wanted to go in this lane. I was never in this lane with him before.

"We passed a man and woman who were laying on the grass. . . . I said, 'Look, Raymond, there is a girl and fellow asleep,' and he would not look and we went straight ahead. We went about twenty feet and sat down and he began to get fresh with me. . . .

"Then we started back for home. We passed the two who was lying on the grass again, and I said to Ray, 'They are lying the same way I saw them.' I said, 'Look!' and he looked kind of sideways and started to walk very fast away. I kept looking over his shoulder till we got a little ways up. Then I let go of his shoulder and stopped, and he kept walking on in a hurry. I started back a few feet and called to him, 'Come here, Ray, just a minute, the people ain't breathing.'

"He said, 'Come and let's walk down the lane, what do we care?'

"He stood quite a ways and I kept calling to him to come. After about fifteen minutes I went over and got him by the hand. He pulled away and said, 'Oh, come on!'

"I told him to come up and look at the people with me. He said, 'If you go as far as the tree I will go with you.' I said, 'You are a man, you should go over.'"

Together the pair edged over, Schneider behind Pearl, and when the girl finally saw two persons unmistakably murdered her courage fled and she with it. Pearl said she "made" Schneider go to a house and telephone, but he was so nervous he dropped the receiver and the woman of the house had to tell the police.

At 11.30 A.M. Dr. Leon Loblein was going by in Easton Avenue when a policeman called him into De Russey Lane, and up at the second turning he saw the bodies, each lying with the legs crossed, one of Mr. Hall's under the blood-clotted head of Mrs. Mills. His straw hat had been laid over his face. Dr. Loblein testified that Hall's clothes "were perfectly arranged," Mrs. Mills stockings, he noticed, "were below her knees."

Pearl Bahmer said she next saw Schneider at 2 P.M. and when she asked: "What are you worrying about?" he replied, "I feel sick

(Excerpts from The World, Sunday, Aug. 8, 1926.)

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and want to go home and go to bed."

Mrs. Hall and James Mills were notified of the tragedy shortly after noon this day. The authorities wondered about the love letters strewn about the bodies. Mills said he had often noticed his wife writing notes, and the day before the murder had come upon a sheaf of them in the pocket of her shawl, the shawl she was wearing when killed. He took them out, noticed they contained endearments, but had no suspicions, and amusedly put them back. By this explanation it was only accidental that the notes were scattered about De Russey Lane.

Willie Stevens ordered a new suit Saturday, and sent off two old suits which were "very dirty" to be cleaned. He had a .32 calibre Iver Johnson revolver. The authorities found the firing pin ~~had~~ been filed down so the pistol would not shoot. Mrs. Hall said her husband had this done two years' previously for safety's sake.

That, in substance, is the way the Hall-Mills murder case stood nearly four years ago when the investigation petered out. Now the witnesses are scattered. In four years time there has been a bumper crop of hearsay, with the facts getting buried constantly deeper and deeper. Louise Geist has married and separated from Arthur S. Riehl, a New Brunswick youth who turned detective. On the Old Phillips farm only a hole marks where the crabapple tree stood. Its leaves and branches, bark and roots have been plundered by souvenir hunters.

Three who were connected with the case have died, including Prosecutor Beekman of Somerset County. Two are missing, one a former state trooper and the other the mechanic who filed down the firing pin of Willie Stevens's gun. The fame of the unsolved mystery has gone round the world. Cars from Texas and Florida, from Maine and California, have now and again driven up De Russey's Lane for a morbid look.

Pearl Bahmer is in a Catholic protectory. Her father was "sent up." Her ne'er-do-well brother has died in Trenton Prison. James Mills still potters about with his janitorial work and talks about the Hall-Mills case importantly. Mrs. Hall has been twice to Europe. Her house has been renovated, the servants have gone to other households. Peter Tumulty, the chauffeur, has a job across the street, and the widow lives quietly with her brother, Willie. And still remains the riddle: Who killed Edward W. Hall and Eleanor Mills the night of Sept. 14, 1922?

EXCERPTS FROM NEWSPAPERS

Re: Pearl Bahmer

Was with Schneider on Saturday morn 9/16/22 when he discovered bodies. She was also in Prosecutor's office when Clifford Hayes and Raymond schneider were being questioned on 10/8/22.

"I was with Schneider on night of 9/14/22 until 9 P.M. Took me home and said goodnight in front of my house. I met my father on front steps; he grabbed me by arm and commanded me to go walking with him. Said he had too much to drink and thought walk would sober him. As we left house toward Buccleugh Park I noticed several times schneider, Kauffman and Hayes following. They caught up to us at George and College streets. schneider took off his coat, rolled up his sleeves and followed. We sat on grass near Johnson factory. I discovered Hayes crawling up to us. Asked what he wanted. He said 'I am looking for a place to sleep'. Ray was behind us leaning against tree. Father and I got up and walked away. They followed. Father held on to my arm all time and later when I said it was getting late and time to go home he squeezed my arm and said we would stay in the park. I cried and he squeezed my arm more tightly. The next evening I met schneider at Somerset Avenue. He said 'Where did you go; I lost track of you last night.' I said 'Why did you follow?' He replied 'I thought your father would start some trouble with you.' I said 'You don't know how to fight anyhow.' He answered 'I have my friend Hayes who has a gun and he can take my part.' I told him it was five minutes to twelve when we got home and asked him when he did. He said 'I left at 3 o'clock and was looking for you.' I told him he was foolish because I did not stay out so late. On saturday 9/16/22 Schneider came to music shop where I work and we took a walk up Easton Avenue. He did not want to go up De Russey Lane. Said he preferred Landing Lane. Told him I had never been on De Russey Lane and would like to walk there. We did and came across a couple lying under a crab apple tree. Didn't know they were dead. We sat down a little distance away and watched them. Noticed they did not move. Pulled him over to look at the couple. He got red in the face and nervous. Said 'I don't want to go over there.' He leaned against crab apple tree and said 'They are full of blood.' Also that 'they don't look as though they were murdered here. They look as though they were laid out.' I ran down the Lane a few yards asking him to phone somebody about it. Said he would not. He did not want to get into trouble. I insisted and he went to a nearby house and phoned. He was terribly nervous and dropped the receiver while in middle of his conversation. I then went home and told Mrs. Isaac Barton, 228 Neilson Street, about finding bodies." (Morning World 10/10/22)

Pearl B. states S. had sharp pearl handled pocket knife. "Always cutting up something with it. I seen it lots of times." states he tried to get her to go away with him. That on the Sunday two weeks after murder particularly insistent on her going with him to Perth Amboy where he thought he could get a job. Says Schneider has revolver but she has never seen it. Claims

(EXCERPTS FROM NEWSPAPERS)

Re: Pearl Bahmer

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to have seen him Sunday following discovery of bodies.
(Herald 10/10/22)

"I believe Raymond schneider stole watch day we found bodies and he is trying to save himself by accusing Hayes of murder. I saw watch chain on the Rector." (Eve. World 10/10/22)

Pearl B. states that on 9/18/22 at request of Raymond's wife, Mrs. Schneider, she accompanied her to Phillips Farm. Mrs. Schneider opened the door of the Phillips House and asked her to go in but Pearl refused. That Mrs. schneider told her not to say anything about having a key to the house. (Times 10/10/22)

"When we went over to bodies I noticed cards and letters thrown around. I started to pick them up. Raymond told me not to. He picks them up himself. I suggest that we look around for a gun. He said not to and told me not to say anything about what I had seen." (Eve. Telegram 10/10/22)

According to Pearl's father, Pearl jumped into Raritan Canal six weeks ago attempting suicide. Left a note for him saying schneider was to blame. Attended by Dr. F. N. Hoffman and Dr. C. J. Sullivan. (Morn. World 10/11/22)

Pearl is being held as incorrigible minor. Father in \$10,000 bail on charge of incest based on statements made by girl and County Judge Peter F. Daly. (Tribune 10/11/22)

Told of call at Phillips Farm House. States "I never knew there was a house on the place. she knew it was there and went up on the porch and tried door. Then she produced key which she said was the key to her own house, put it in lock and opened it. I was frightened and did not go in. She did. Was in ten minutes." (Tribune 10/11/22)

States her charges against father are true. Raymond Schneider knew of attacks and became enraged. Asked her to poison her father. (Eve. Journal 10/11/22)

Pearl has been arrested frequently for truancy and delinquency. (Morn. World 10/12/22)

Intimates that Schneider knows more about murders than he has told. He asked her Friday night 9/15/22 if she had heard any shots night before. (Eve. Journal 10/14/22)

William D. Danbury and Paul E. Wing, attorneys for Pearl, state she has recanted her story that father attacked her over a period of several years. (Herald 10/21/22)

Has been staying at House of Good Shepherd in Newark. (Times 11/15/22).

Excerpts From Newspapers Re: Raymond Schneider

Found body Saturday, 9/16/22 with Pearl Bahmer. At time of murder lived at 102 Sicard St., New Brunswick near Baccleough Park. Married about two months ago, but is believed to be separated from wife. Out of work. Considered roustabout.

According to Schneider's statement to authorities, he was with Pearl Bahmer on Thursday night, 9/14/22. States he left her about 9 P.M. near the end of the trolley line. This is about 3/4 of a mile from spot where bodies were found. After leaving Pearl, states he met Clifford Hayes and another boy named Kaufman, who also live near Park and walked with them down Easton Avenue to Landing Lane where Parker House for Aged is situated. States he returned home about 9:45 P.M. Did not see Rector or Mrs. M. (Times 9/25/22)

Leon Kauffman who lives on Easton Ave. near Ray St. left Hayes and Schneider early. After that two strolled around in vicinity of Baccleough Park until nearly three in the morning. Once they walked out Easton Avenue as far as Parker Home for Aged. This is within 100 yards of deserted farmhouse on Phillips farm near which bodies were found. Both are positive they heard neither screams nor shots. (Tribune 9/26/22) Schneider was 24?

Schneider states he met Pearl on Friday 9/15/22 on College & Hamilton Avenues and made an appointment for next day. They met at 8:40 A.M. Saturday 9/16/22 and walked out into country to pick mushrooms. At 10:30 they came across bodies. They waited near bodies for ten minutes, not touching them and not knowing what to do. Finally they ran across fields to William Stricker who telephoned police. Schneider and Pearl then returned to bodies and waited arrival of police when they went home. (Times 9/26/22)

Both Schneider and Hayes repeated stories that they frequently went out to the park and remained until a late hour.

Schneider claims to be eye witness to murders. States tragically was case of mistaken identity. That boy he named was after another man and he came upon Rev. H. and Mrs. M. under a crab apple tree. Schneider questioned by Totten, David, and Dickman. States that he and boy in question followed Pearl out in direction of Phillips Farm about 11 P.M. September 14. Hearing farm house came upon couple under tree. Boy mistook them for Pearl and "other man". "There they are, let me at them" boy said. Same time he leaped forward and fired three shots. Schneider and boy rushed to bodies. Schneider realized "a terrible mistake had been made". Boy realized this was a case and they fled. Schneider does not know what his chum did with pistol. Says he did not see him throw it away.

Schneider's original story was he heard shots which ended lives of Rector and Mrs. M. That he saw two men and woman running from scene. Stuck to this story for hours until he broke down and named companion as actual slayer. Signed statement to this effect. Schneider confronted with his chum and accused him of killing. Chum denied it. (Evening Journal 10/9/22)

Schneider claims he met Hayes night 9/14/22 and told him Pearl, daughter of former saloonkeeper who now runs pool room, was seen going with her father, Nicholas Bahmer, to Buccleugh Park. Schneider, married three years, not living with wife, was in love with Pearl who lives with aunt. (M.W.10/10/22)

Schneider confession states Hayes did not cut Mrs.M's throat and that neither he nor Hayes arranged bodies. Also accuses Hayes of stealing Rector's watch. (Amer.10/10/22.)

Schneider states he and Hayes crept up within three feet of couple when Hayes "blazed away". (Her. 10/10/22)

Schneider admits familiarity with Pearl Bahmer three years beginning when she was less than 13 and when he was married only a few months. (Her. 10/10/22)

Believed mentally deficient (E.Sun 10/10/22)

Statement of Raymond Schneider made to officials is printed Times 10/11/22. Accuses Hayes and tells of walk on Friday morning 9/15/22 with Pearl B. in seach of mushrooms and again on Saturday when they found bodies. Claims Hayes put Mrs. Mills' scarf and Rector's hat over respective faces. "Times" also contains letters written to Pearl Bahmer by Schneider.

Hayes released from custody. Schneider retracts statement accusing Hayes of murders. (M.W.10/13/22)

Gives as his reason for accusing Hayes his spiteful feeling beause of denial made by Hayes and Pearl of statement of Schneider to authorities. (M.W. 10/13/22)

Full recantation of Schneider printed in M.W.10/13/22

See Herald 10/13/22 for reasons given by Schneider to Prosecutor for Schneider's accusation to Hayes. Also Times of 10/13/22.

Held on double charges of perjury and imperiling morals of minor. Is reported that he was janitor of Phillips Farm House. He denies this. (Amer. 10/14/22)

Said to have been in vicinity of Phillips Farm from 11 P.M. to 3 A.M. according to their story. (Her. Tri. 10/17/22)

Indicted today on charge of perjury in Hayes
complaint. (Eve. W. 11/11/22)

Writ served on Sheriff Elmer Wyckoff by Judge
Gunnere ordering production Snyder to testify before Grand
Jury. (Trib. 11/19/22)

Before Grand Jury today; grilled for one hour.
(Her. 11/22/22)

Authorities convinced Snyder knows more than he has
told. (Eve. Jour. 12/5/22)

Convicted of perjury 12/8/22/ Trial before Judge
Peter F. Daly, prosecutor.

For summary of Snyder-Bahmer movements see Sun.
W. 8/8/26.



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